"Where is this to end?" says the city article. "This very question tells the whole history of the mischief. Each man asks it of his neighbour, and neither can give the slightest clue to its solution. The 'balance-sheet' of a railway company has now no more effect than a sheet of waste paper, and as it *would be perfectly easy to give accounts which would make everything perfectly clear, and these accounts are not given*, it is naturally inferred that the market would not be benefited by the prospect they would indicate, and hence that, although the end cannot be known, there is a certainty, at all events, that it has not yet been reached. The public hear of meetings of the heads of the leading lines to devise means to stay the ruin. There is only one measure wanted, and that is the publication of accounts that shall be unmistakeable. So long as such statements are kept back, there can only be an increase of distrust. Several months back the companies *resisted the appointment of a public auditor*. Had it taken place, it is probable the end would by this time have been arrived at. As it is, it may easily be seen that until the books of each concern shall have been thoroughly sifted by some wholly unbiassed person or persons independent of the Directors, paid expressly for their work, and with a professional reputation at stake upon its accuracy, it must be vain to hope for any permanent mitigation of the chronic terror that now prevails."

On this profit and loss accounting and shareholding subject, we do not mean to offer any opinion of our own: we only regret the present state of things as it affects the building trades generally, and the poor working men and their families in particular. Swindon, we perceive, is at present a centre of incipient emigration, in place of, as heretofore, a growing conflux of railway industry and enterprise: and it is but too likely that there will be other Swindons of this sort shortly, if matters do not rapidly amend.

## THE ABUSE OF THE ARCH.

SIR,—The origin of the arch appears to be, where it will ever rest, in obscurity. Much learning and research, for very many years, have been brought to bear on the subject, without being able to define its first application. Successive accidental discoveries of the works of remote ages serve but to render the exact epoch (if it had but one) more ambiguous; whereas, it is probable different people may have applied and discarded it. That the Egyptians did not know of its application we have no positive knowledge, and must not be guided in our conjecture by not finding it in those wondrous structures, the Pyramids, which have

"outlived their maker's name,"

but rather attribute their present preservation to the discretion which omitted putting so destructive an engine in what were intended for durable monuments. That the Greeks did not employ it in their temples and palaces is tolerably certain, but their knowledge of dynamical geometry forbids the ban of their ignorance of its use; and the state of their ruins, at the present day, plainly shews it is the vengeful hand of man, with his desolating ravages, that hath aided time in hastening their destruction. On the contrary, we observe, with regard to the Roman structures, a powerful stimulus to decay, by the introduction of that wedge of destruction, the arch. That the Romans were, like the Goths, driven to it by the nature of their materials, I doubt; Gothic architecture being the doctrine of building with small stones, which cannot apply to the Romans, seeing they had, at the period of their erecting, the resources of the Greek quarries in addition to their own; nor need we go thus far in comparison, as the size of materials used would construct in the Grecian style.

If we now leave its origin, and say a few words on its application, we may observe the arch is, of course, very useful in certain places, but when misapplied, is not only useless, but dangerous, as nine out of ten of the corner houses of the streets of London can testify: indeed, the thrusting of the arch, with the expansion and contraction of materials, pushes out what it can never recover; and when the lateral bonding is not sufficient to restrain the arch, sooner or later the building becomes bulged, and its strength impaired; so that the more we revert to the old Greek system of lateral girders and vertical pressure, the greater stability we shall have in our buildings.

I am, Sir, &c., A. T.

## CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

AT Jesus College Chapel, Cambridge, the restorations are at length nearly completed. In course of the repairs a number of arches have been found concealed behind clumsy masses of brickwork and plaster. The original fabric is now again developed. The window at the east end is new in material, though not in design. This and the other windows are to be filled with stained glass, and the square panels of the lofty roof decorated with rose and crown. Unfortunately a portion of the nave, adjoining the master's lodge, was converted at some former period into students' rooms—a fact recently ascertained. Towards the east, however, the chapel has been enlarged; and a new aisle erected on the original foundation of that part of the building.——A painted window, the gift of Mr. Serjeant Talfourd, M.P., and his wife, has been erected in St. Lawrence's Church, Reading.——St. Osmund's Roman Catholic Church, at Salisbury, opened on 6th inst., is in the early decorated style, with nave, chancel, south aisle, chapel at east and tower at west end. The organ gallery is over the sacristy, at south side of chancel. The altars, pulpit, and font are of stone, carved, the two former relieved by painting and gilding. The windows in chancel and Lady Chapel are filled with stained glass, by Hardman, of Birmingham. Chancel and chapel are separated from nave and aisle by oak screens. The chancel roof is panelled, painted, and gilt. The body of the church is filled with low open benches. The exterior is of flint, with stone quoins. Mr. Pugin was the architect. The accommodation is for 300: estimated cost between 2,000*l.* and 3,000*l.*——The new church of St. John the Evangelist, on the Clee-hill, Cleobury Mortimer, was consecrated on 6th instant by the Bishop of Hereford. It is of white sandstone, in a plain unornamented style, with a single centre aisle and a gallery at the west end, and accommodation for 300. Our authority observed at the consecration a numerous host of ladies and gentlemen whom he very pointedly names, but he does not appear to have been able to 'observe' such insignificant individuals as the architect or builder: indeed, he states that the church was commenced by the late Thomas Botfield, Esq., and finished by his widow, Mrs. Botfield, of Hopton Court, the latter of whom he observed, though not the former.——The Bishop's Chapel, at Wells, is being restored. The bosses of the roof have been cleaned; and Mr. Bell, of Bristol, artist in stained glass, is engaged on a west window. The design of all is plain diaper work of entwined ivy and vine leaves, and other ornaments taken from old models.——In Lower Easton Church, two small windows, painted by the same artist, have been lately put up at the west entrance.——Abbots' Leigh Church is being restored, the north side having been entirely destroyed by the late fire. An east and other windows are shortly to be put up.——Trowbridge Church has been opened after a general restoration. A large east perpendicular window has been inserted. It was a gift of Miss Waldron, of Bristol.——The Darcy aisle of All Saints' Church, Maldon, has lately been enriched by the insertion of a memorial window of painted glass, designed and executed by Clutterbuck, of Stratford.——The church of Holy Trinity, Wicker parish, Sheffield, was consecrated during the past week. The foundation-stone was laid on 30th June, 1847. The building is of plain early English architecture, from a design by Messrs. Flockton, Lee, and Flockton, of Sheffield, architects. There are neither nave, arches, nor columns. A gallery is supported by cast-iron pillars. The east window is stained, by Messrs. Drury, of Sheffield. There are seats for nearly 1,000. The internal dimensions are as follows:—Area, 65 feet by 47½ feet; height to square, 30 feet; from floor to ridge, 45 feet; chancel, 26 feet by 10½ feet. Entire outlay about 6,000*l.*,—site and old buildings costing about 1,500*l.*, and church 4,500*l.* Messrs. J. and J. Rigall are the contractors.——Thurmaston Church has been enlarged and otherwise improved. The old church contained 135 sittings. The present edifice provides sittings for 504 persons, four-fifths free. A new organ, built by G. M. Holdich, has been erected. The tower is to be restored, and a new stone wall is to enclose the churchyard, which will be returfed. Two pairs of wrought-iron gates are being executed at Derby under the direction of Mr. Henry J. Stevens, architect, and 1,800*l.* will, in all, be expended, without levying a rate. The principal contributor is the Rev. Jas. Spurrell, who provides the munificent sum of 700*l.*, although only a sojourner, who, in passing by, says the *Leicester Journal*, like the good Samaritan, pitied the destitute condition of the village, and has done what he could to supply the deficiency of church accommodation.——The new church of St. Paul, at Shepley, parish of Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, was lately consecrated; and on Tuesday week the new church at Healey, parish of Masham, was also consecrated—both by the Bishop of Ripon. The Healey church has been built chiefly at the expense of Mr. O. V. Harcourt, owner of the parish of Masham, and from a design by Mr. L. E. B. Lamb, architect, in the decorated Gothic style, with a small lantern in the centre, and a lofty spire. Three of the windows are painted—the east by Sir Robert Frankland Russell, Bart., and the west and north by Mr. Lamb. The open and ornamental roof, the stalls, pulpit, and reading-desks, screen, and communion-table, are of English oak. The total cost, it is said, will be nearly 2,000*l.*——St Mary's Church, Birthwaite, was opened on 4th inst. It stands a few hundred yards from the Windermere Railway station, and will accommodate about 200 persons. The style of architecture is pointed gothic, superintended by the Rev. J. A. Addison, at whose sole expense the church has been built and endowed.——Saint Mark's Unitarian Chapel, Castle-terrace, Edinburgh, which has been closed for about three years, in consequence of the operations of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company, by tunnelling underneath, and endangering the stability of the building, has been inspected by architects, and at their suggestion strengthened and repaired. It was re-opened on 24th ult.

## DECORATION OF THE THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

THE Haymarket Theatre, which opened for the season on Saturday night, has long required re-decoration: and with Mr. Webster's usual enterprise, he appears to have determined to do it effectually, for which purpose he availed himself of the skill of Mr. Sang, while the general alterations were placed under the superintendence of Mr. C. Manby. Through absence from town, we are unable yet to offer an opinion on the result, but give the following particulars of the works done. The lobbies are all of a cool green colour, with crimson lines round the doors. Backs have been added to all the seats in the circle. The ugly square columns which formerly impeded the view from the corner-boxes are replaced by the former palm-tree stems of white and gold. Increased ventilation has been provided. The general tone of the house is cream-colour and gold. In the ceiling and proscenium alone some artistic decoration is attempted. The pervading tint of the ceiling is an aerial blue, intermingled with gold, and ornamental and figurative painting. In the spandrels of the four corners are depicted the "Seasons," and there is a group of "Tragedy" and "Comedy" in the centre of the proscenium.

The columns which formerly encumbered the proscenium, and circumscribed the space on the stage, have been removed, and are replaced by pilasters, decorated with a running pattern of the Indian cane, with its leaves entwined with bright flowers.

A new drop has been painted by Mr. P. Phillips. The centre represents the church at Stratford, forming the centre of a screen of the period of the Renaissance architecture, surmounted by a bust of Shakespeare, and flanked on either hand by two groups of Tragedy and Comedy.

COMPETITION FOR FIREPROOF SAFES.—Mr. Leadbeater, of 125, Aldersgate-street, City, has been the successful competitor for the eight large wrought iron fire-proof safes for her Majesty's Ordnance department.

For more information on OCR and PDF Compression visit our website